

REMARKS**Claim Status**

Claims 1-15, 18-34, 37-43, 45, 57, 59-62, 74-77, 79, and 91 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 4, 11, 12, 18-21, 23, 30, 31, 37-41, 57, 61, 74, 75, 79, and 91 are currently amended.

Claims 16, 17, 35, 36, 44, 46-56, 58, 63-73, 78, and 80-90 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Art Rejections

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 18-22, 37-43, 46-54, 57-60, 63-71, 74-77, 80-88, and 91 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Tso *et al.*, U.S. Patent Number 6,088,803 (“Tso” hereinafter). Claims 4-17, 23-36, 44, 45, 55, 56, 61, 62, 72, 73, 78, 79, 89, and 90 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tso in view of Bates *et al.*, U.S. Patent Number 6,721,721 (“Bates” hereinafter). We respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections.

Independent claims 1, 21, and 91, as amended, recite that processing includes encrypting a file or another object. Independent claim 57 recites sending a file identifier to an encrypting device. It appears that Tso does not teach encryption. Although Bates does discuss encryption (see column 14, line 62, through column 16, line 60), Bates apparently applies encryption to packets carrying virus status information and notifications exchanged between a virus check controller and various

virus checkers. It appears that Bates does not teach content encryption. We respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 21, 57, and 91 are patentable over Tso and Bates.

According to independent claims 40 and 74, as amended, communication between the server and the cluster of scanning devices is performed using non-uniform memory access (“NUMA”). Dependent claims 6 and 25 also recite NUMA communication. NUMA is a type of multiprocessing architecture wherein memory is managed according to its distance from the processor. *E.g.*, COMPUTER DICTIONARY 370 (Microsoft Press, 5th ed. 2002). The Office Action states that Bates discloses NUMA at column 5, lines 1-63. The undersigned attorney has reviewed Bates, and specifically column 5, lines 1-63, but has not found a teaching of such architecture. We respectfully submit that Tso and Bates do not teach or suggest this limitation, and that the claims are patentable over the cited references.

Dependent claims 9 and 28 recite that the processing cluster is performed in a round robin fashion. Round robin is a sequential, fixed cyclical manner of scheduling. *See* COMPUTER DICTIONARY 458 (Microsoft Press, 5th ed. 2002); FOLDOC (Free On-Line Dictionary Of Computing), available at <http://foldoc.doc.ic.ac.uk/foldoc/index.html>. The Office action cites Bates at column 3, lines 38-55; column 4, lines 50-55; and column 8, lines 16-29, as teaching the round robin limitation. The undersigned attorney has reviewed the cited portions of text, but has not found references to round robin scheduling. Indeed, it appears that the cited text does not describe any specific scheduling scheme.

According to dependent claims 10 and 29, a file is processed by more than one device in a processing cluster. The Office Action cites Bates at column 3, lines 38-55; column 4, lines 50-55; and column 8, lines 16-29, as teaching this limitation. The undersigned attorney has reviewed Bates, but has not discerned a teaching of parts of a single file being processed by multiple processing devices. While it appears that Bates does teach the use of multiple processing devices in virus scanning, Bates apparently does not teach application of processing power of multiple processing devices to a single file. Generally, multiple processing devices need not be used to process one file; instead, multiple processing devices can be used for concurrent processing of multiple files.

In the above discussion, we have addressed patentability of all pending independent claims, and of several pending dependent claims. As regards dependent claims not specifically discussed, these claims are patentable together with their base claims and intervening claims, if any.

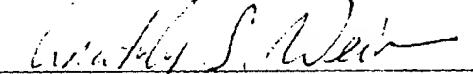
CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are patentable over Tso and Bates. To discuss any matter pertaining to the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (858) 720-9431.

Having made an effort to bring the application in condition for allowance, a timely notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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